My name is Bill Scalise, President of the CT Association of Alternative Schools and Programs. I would like to address some of the concerns CAASP has in HB 5567 An Act Concerning Alternative Schools. Attached is a list of what we consider keys to successful alternative schools and programs.

Thanks you,

Bill Scalise

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Keys to a Successful Alternative Education Program Revised 6/18/08

! NAME AND LOCATION
☐ Student input into program name and identity
☐ Off campus location (or a definite area designated for alternative education only) including access to technology and a gymnasium or a recreational area

! PHILOSOPHY
☐ A well-defined mission and entry procedure, and flexibility in graduation requirements
☐ Not a transition program – students can graduate from the program
☐ A privilege, not a right – students may be exited from the program for not maintaining/achieving stated criteria

! STUDENTS
☐ Create a student profile and limit the student to teacher ratio to 12:1
☐ Avoid being a dumping ground – a school of choice (The student, staff, and parent/guardian must agree that the placement is correct)
☐ A "Code of Conduct" fashioned and agreed upon by both students and staff and emphasizing fairness
☐ Including a probationary period, a policy and process exists for ongoing evaluation of student appropriateness

! CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION
☐ High-interest curriculum with an emphasis on life-skills
☐ Include a work component for credit
☐ Flexibility in interpreting H.S. curriculum
☐ Students meet standardized measures of learning through diverse assessments and with appropriate support

☐ Emphasis on 3 R's: Relationships, Relevance, Rigor

! STAFF
☐ Flexible, caring staff along with consistent access to assigned support personnel
☐ Staff freely chooses to teach within the program
☐ Staff members reflect a holistic perspective of care for students including personal, social, emotional, intellectual, life success, and safety/security elements

! SUPPORT
☐ Membership in a support group such as CAASP (Connecticut Association of Alternative
Schools and Programs
☐ Seek community, school board, and administrative support through public relations, communications, and accurate tracking of current students and graduates
☐ Reasonable budget and budget autonomy